

**Opening Statement
Rep. Ellen Tauscher
House Armed Services Committee
Threat Panel Hearing on Eurasia
September 22, 2005**

Thank you, Mr. Turner.

I am pleased to begin day two of our threat panel with an ambitious look at a region that is hugely important for US national security interests.

There are many serious issues that bear close scrutiny, from the ability of Russia and the former states of the Soviet union to manage and control their nuclear arsenals; to the spread of international terrorism, to the prospects for a changing relationship with Russia over the next 20 years, to the nature of our alliances with the republics of Central Asia; to the efforts of all these countries to control access to energy resources.

I look forward to the views of our regional experts on all these topics as they help us get a better understanding of potential threats to the United States in this vast region as well as gaps they see in our current capabilities or policies.

Thank you and I look forward to your testimony.